

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 /054 W

----- 108196

P 040650Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7116

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC, MA

SUBJECT: HIGH PRECEDENCE COMMUNICATIONS TO TANANARIVE

1. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT TANANARIVE COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUE OPERATE UNDER CONSTRAINTS OF NIGHTLY CURFEW FROM 8:00 P.M. TO 5:00 A.M.

2. WHILE CERTAIN EMBASSY PERSONNEL HOLD GOMR LAISSEZ-PASSER FOR USE DURING CURFEW, FONOFF HAS BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTED ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO RETURN LAISSEZ-PASSER, AND ASKED DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO AVOID CIRCULATION DURING CURFEW HOURS FOR SECURITY REASONS. EMBASSY IS FIGHTING REARGUARD ACTION TO AVOID SURRENDERING LAISSEZ-PASSER, BUT OUTCOME REMAINS UNCERTAIN.

3. IN ANY CASE I HAVE ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLDERS OF LAISSEZ-PASSER TO USE THEM ONLY IN CASE OF ABSOLUTE EMERGENCY NEED AND TO CONSULT MYSELF OR DCM BEFORE DOING SO. MAIN REASON IS RISK OF LIFE TO PERSONS TRAVELING DURING CURFEW HOURS. REPORTS HAVE CIRCULATED OF INCIDENTS

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IN WHICH SOLDIERS HAVE SHOT PERSONS CIRCULATING DURING

CURFEW BECAUSE OF SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS IN REACHING FOR LAISSEZ-PASSER. WHILE THESE REPORTS NOT CONFIRMED, I AM SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED THAT I DO NOT WANT RISK LIVES OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL UNLESS THERE IS ABSOLUTE NEED. RISK IS ALL THE GREATER TO AMERICANS (LIKE C&R EMPLOYEE) WHO DO NOT SPEAK FRENCH AND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET EXPLANATIONS ACROSS TO SENTRIES.

4. FOR ABOVE REASON I SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED C&R NIGHT OF APRIL 3 NOT COME TO EMBASSY TO TAKE STATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 75061 (NOTAL) DESPITE SIGNAL FROM PRETORIA. I ASSUMED IT WAS RESPONSE TO TANANARIVE 0601 (NOTAL), AND THAT NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN DURING NIGHT, WHICH ASSUMPTIONS PROVED CORRECT.

5. ACCORDINGLY, ADDRESSEES SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, NOT TO ADDRESS NIACT MESSAGES TO THIS EMBASSY UNLESS IT IS ON MATTER WHICH ORIGINATOR DEEMS WORTH RISK TO LIFE REFERRED TO ABOVE. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE IS TO TELEPHONE EMBASSY (212-57), DCM (429-02) OR MYSELF (231-60). OUTSIDE OF DUTY HOURS (0730-1230, 1430-1730 LOCAL) LATTER TWO NUMBERS PREFERABLE. MENDENHALL

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